

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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## BLACK CAUCUS CALLS FOR TRUSTEES TO BE FAIR TO DR. HERBERT

Bloomington—At a Wednesday afternoon news conference on the Indiana University Bloomington campus, the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus (IBLC) called upon the I.U. Board of Trustees to reject a mid-term review of President Adam Herbert. The board will meet Saturday to consider the issue.

IBLC Chairman Greg Porter said there is no basis for an additional review of Dr. Herbert.

"President Herbert was evaluated by the trustees in June and obviously his performance was found to be satisfactory," said State Rep. Porter (D-Indianapolis). "A mid-term review would be inappropriate and not consistent with the manner in which the I.U. Board of Trustees has dealt with previous I.U. presidents. We call upon the board to exemplify the fairness always associated with Indiana University and honor Dr. Herbert's contract, especially in the shadow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday."

"President Herbert has provided effective leadership for the university during this critical juncture in the state's economic recovery," said House Ways and Means Ranking Minority Member William Crawford. "Indiana University makes a significant contribution to economic development and job creation in our state. It would be a mistake for the university trustees to send an inadvertent message to companies considering locating in Indiana that the state's largest university is in turmoil, not to mention an unintended message about I.U.'s commitment to diversity."

State Rep. Crawford (D-Indianapolis) said President Herbert's success in raising funds for the university has been remarkable. Indiana University received a \$70 million anonymous donation in December. On the same day, the Cox Scholars program received a \$15 million endowment. In November, I.U. received a gift of \$40.6 million for the Jacobs School of Music.

In addition to his success with donors, IBLC Vice Chairwoman Earline Rogers said President Herbert has had a positive and active relationship with the General Assembly.

"From his first week at Indiana University, Dr. Herbert has had an on-going presence at the Statehouse," said State Sen. Rogers (D-Gary). "He has demonstrated an effective and efficient leadership in building bridges with both the Senate and the House, Democrats and Republicans. President Herbert has proven to be an exemplary leader and representative of I.U."

State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary) is a faculty member on the Indiana University Northwest campus. He said faculty on other campuses were not invited to participate nor encouraged to voice their opinions during a recent vote by Bloomington faculty on the additional review issue.

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"There are nearly 5,000 full-time faculty system-wide for Indiana University," explained Dr. Smith. "Only two-thirds of the 1,574 eligible faculty members, who belong to the Bloomington Faculty Council, chose to participate in this vote. It is hardly representative of all the faculty. I.U. plays a critical role in post-secondary education in our state. Eighty percent of Hoosiers reside within a 50-mile radius of the Bloomington campus. The other campuses offer educational opportunities for Indiana citizens who live in the various regions of Indiana. It is important for I.U. to deliver on that educational commitment to our state's residents without creating an atmosphere of conflict."

Dr. Smith, who is also chairman of the Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males, said Dr. Herbert provides a positive role model for young African-Americans.

"President Herbert sets a tremendous example for black youth," said Dr. Smith. "He has taken time out of his busy schedule to meet with various groups of African-American young people I have taken to Bloomington. His message is always positive. He shares that one can achieve one's dreams, but it takes a commitment to hard work and education to realize those dreams. Dr. Herbert's life reflects the words in a physical reality that inspires young people to dream, to achieve and to succeed."

"The decision made by the I.U. Board of Trustees on Saturday will have ramifications far beyond the future of one dedicated man," added Dr. Smith. "The decision will impact a generation of black youth in Indiana and will play a significant role in the future of the university's ability to attract minority faculty and students."

"The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus supports standards and accountability," said Chairman Porter," but we believe that President Herbert should not be measured differently than his predecessors. The world of academia should be the exemplar of fairness and equity in society. We expect no less from the I.U. Board of Trustees."

Chairman Porter said the IBLC also supports the Bloomington Black Faculty and Staff Council's recommendations to the trustees. The list includes increasing the number of African-Americans at all levels of Senior Leadership at Indiana University and undertaking a comprehensive review and revision of the administrative structure of the I.U. system.

In addition, the Black Faculty and Staff Council calls for the institutionalizing and increased funding for successful diversity programs, like the Hudson and Holland Scholars programs, the Office of Strategic Hiring and Support, the Groups Program, and the Faculty and Staff for Student Excellence Mentoring Program. The council also recommends the marketing of the Bloomington campus separately from the I.U. system as well as the improvement of the quality of the undergraduate students and the undergraduate experience. In addition, the group stresses the importance of strengthening the Department of African-American and African Diaspora Studies.